

Red-osier Dogwood *Cornus sericea*

Cornaceae—Dogwood family

by Tom Reaume © 2010 Nature Manitoba

Grant: 

A **deciduous shrub** 1–4 m tall in clumps from **stolons**; in moist areas around sloughs, ponds, ravines, river and creek edges and moist deciduous woods.

● **FLOWERS** white, blooming April–September; **inflorescence** a cyme, flat-topped, 2–6 cm across by 1.5–4 cm tall; **peduncles** 0.7–7 cm long by 1.2–2 mm thick, some with spreading white hairs; **rays** 2–5, opposite, 6–13 mm long, spreading but the central one erect and c. 2 mm long; **pedicels** lightly hairy, 1.2–10 mm long by c. 0.5 mm thick, round; **flower buds** 3.8–4.3 mm long by 1.8–2 mm wide, squarish; **flowers** perfect, 17–130, each 6–8 mm wide by 4–6 mm long; **sepals** 4 (5), green, hairy, pointed, 0.3–0.4 mm long and wide, with brown and white hairs dorsally, arising from a continuous ring; **petals** 4 (rarely 5), lightly hairy below (dorsally), glabrous above, 2–3.5 mm long by 1.7–2.2 mm wide, bluntly tipped to pointed, spreading to slightly descending, the margins inrolled, veins obvious when dry; **epigynous disc** light yellowish green, moist, 1–1.5 mm wide; **stamens** 4, c. 4 mm long between the petals, ascending, exserted; **filaments** 3–4 mm long, attached to outside of epigynous disc; **anthers** yellow, c. 2 mm long by c. 1 mm wide, attached below the middle to the filaments; **hypanthium** (ovary inside) 1.5–2.5 mm long by 1–1.5 mm wide, inferior, covered with short, dolabriform, appressed hairs; **style** one, 2–3 mm long by 0.4 mm thick, erect, slightly enlarged to a roundish stigma; **fruit clusters** 3–6 cm wide by 2.3–4.5 cm tall, of c. 10–30 drupes, ascending to drooping, some overwintering; **flower to fruit** c. 7 weeks.

● **FRUIT** a drupe, 1-stoned, dull, white, some overwintering, 4–8 mm long by 4–9 mm across by 2.5–4 mm thick, glabrous or with appressed 2-branched hairs, when overwintering very dry and tan with wide, erect, net-veins (or wings) 0.1–0.6 mm tall by c. 0.1 mm thick; **stones** (endocarp) hard, woody, 2-chambered, these unequal, but only 1-seeded, 3.3–6 mm long by 2.6–4 mm wide by c. 3 mm thick, dull, brownish gray with 3–5 thin, pale green ribs (some incomplete) on each round face, walls c. 0.3 mm thick.

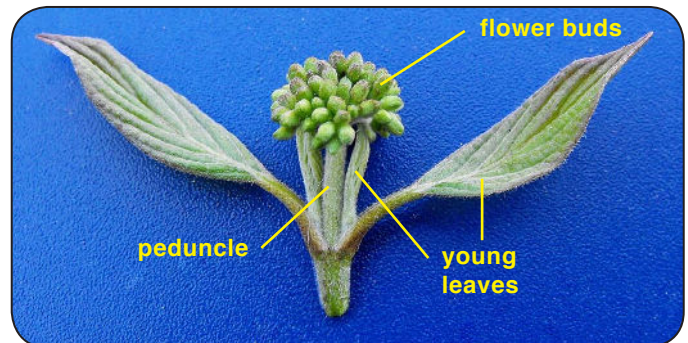
● **LEAVES** opposite, simple, entire, oval, dull, green, turning reddish purple in fall; **blades** 2–14 cm long by 0.5–9 cm wide, the upper (ventral) surface glabrous to lightly hairy, lower dorsal surface glaucous and lighter green with appressed dolabriform hairs, woolly hairy in some; **lateral veins** 5–7 pairs with the tips curving toward the apex; **petioles** 4–32 mm long by 1.5–2 mm wide, slightly hairy, greenish red to red in the fall, with a wide shallow groove above.

● **STEM** erect to leaning, few to many in a clump, branches opposite, distinctly reddish, youngest twigs slightly to very hairy, pith white; **stem base** 0.5–4 cm wide, dark reddish to grayish bark when old; **lenticels** beige to black, oval to round, horizontal or vertical, 1–2 mm long by 0.5–2 mm wide; **terminal winter buds** pointed, dull, 4–6 mm long by 1–3.8 mm wide by 1–2.5 mm thick, reddish, often with dolabriform hairs 0.3–0.5 mm long; **side buds** opposite, 3–6 mm long by 1.2–1.8 mm wide by 0.7–0.9 mm thick, very hairy, on stalks 2–4 mm long.

● **RANGE:** (CAN) 13 provinces; (USA) 37 states; absent in the southeastern states; a **native**.



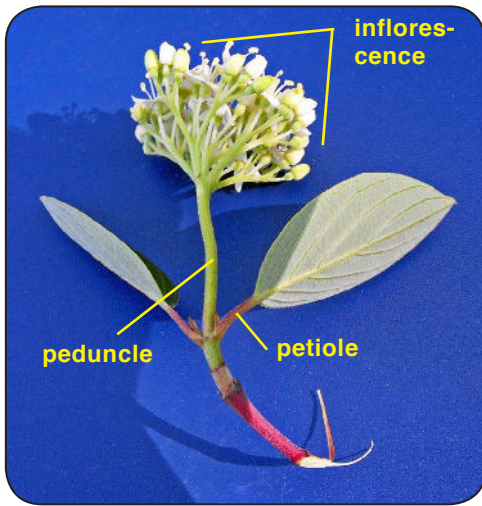
Red-osier Dogwood with numerous white flower clusters along the bank of Omand's Creek in Winnipeg, Manitoba



Young cluster of flower buds c. 1 cm wide



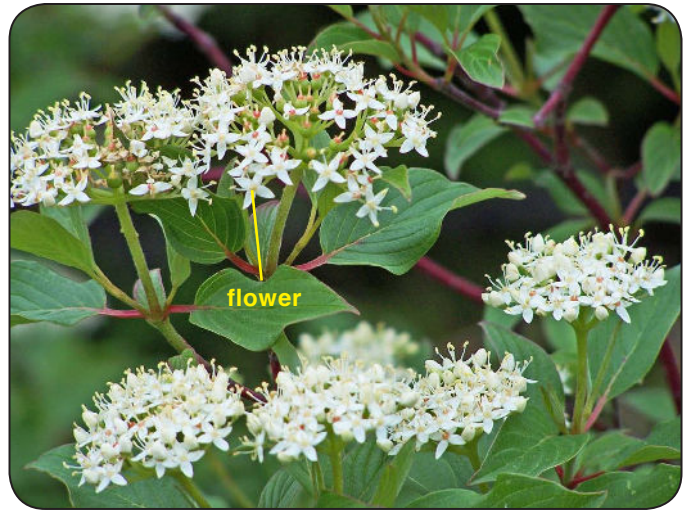
Distinctive reddish stems help to identify this dogwood



Inflorescence on peduncle from opposite leaves



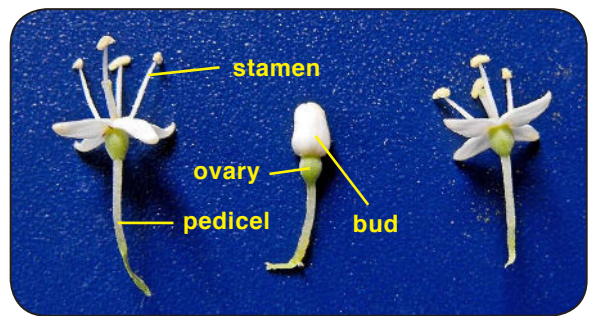
Stem 12 mm wide with light lenticels



Several clusters of flowers



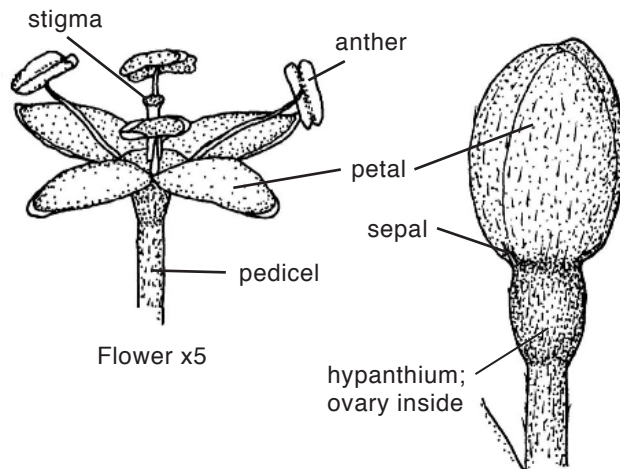
Inflorescence up close; flowers c. 7 mm wide



Two flowers c. 7 mm wide and a flower bud; style and stamens exerted

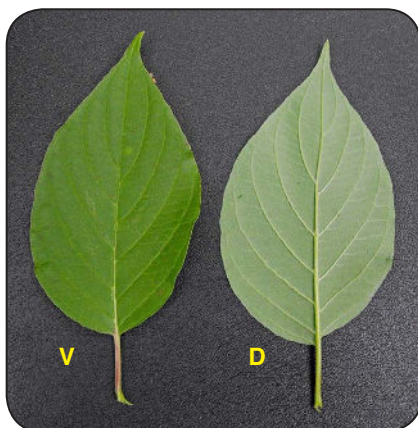


Bases of opposite petioles of leaves

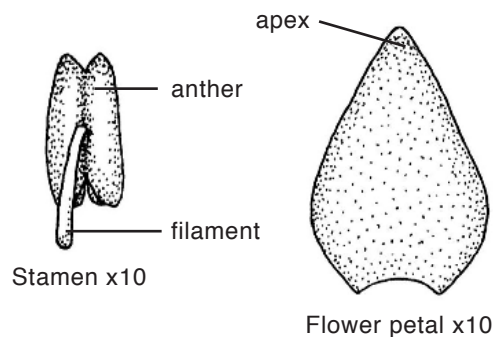


Flower x5

Flower bud x10

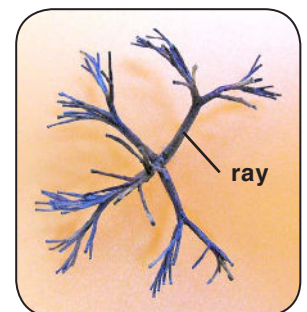


Red-osier Dogwood leaves; Ventral side; lighter Dorsal side

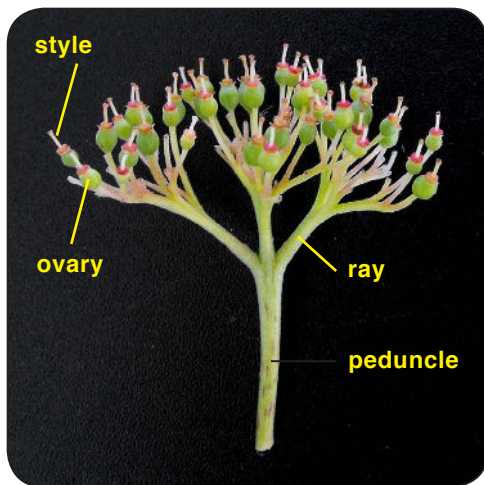


Stamen x10

Flower petal x10



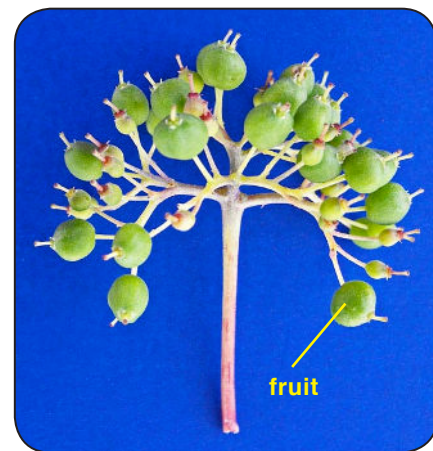
Architecture of cyme, above



Inflorescence 6.5 cm wide with early fruit development after petals fall



Green fruit cluster 5 cm wide; above



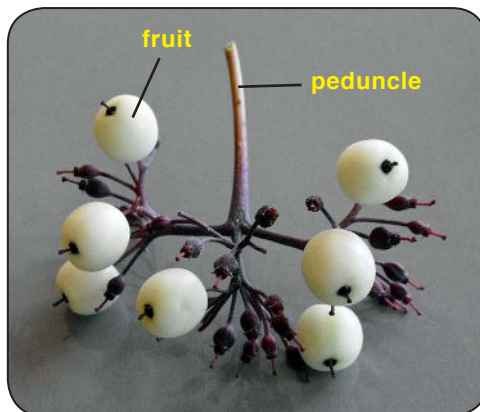
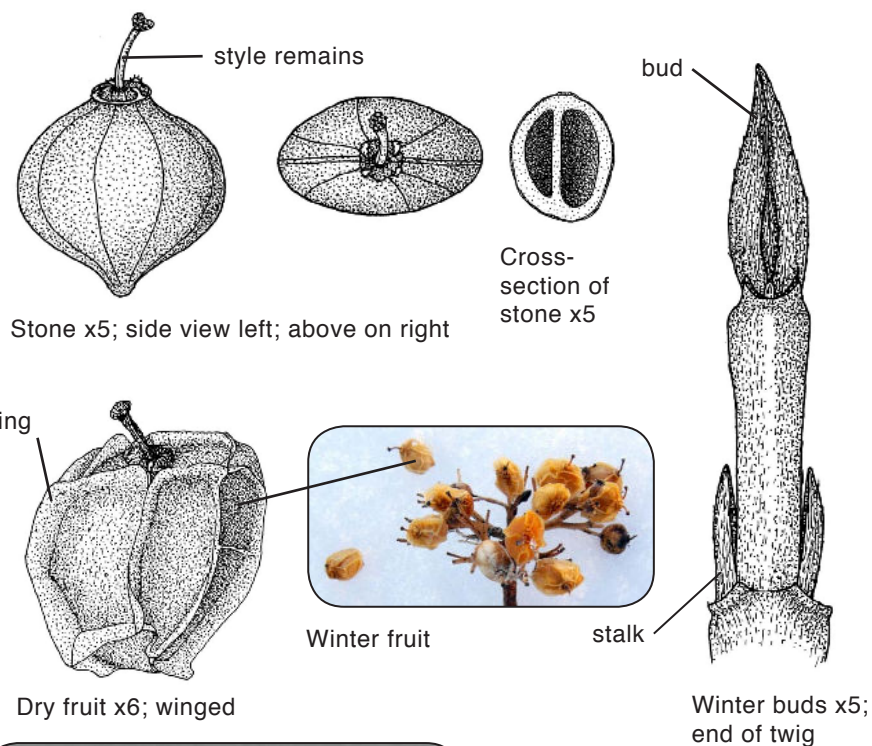
Green fruit cluster 5 cm wide; side



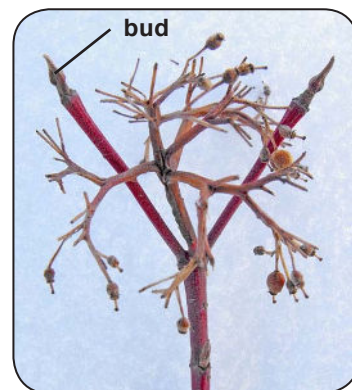
White ripe fruit among leaves



Dorsal side of leaf showing 5 side veins from midrib



Fruit cluster 4.5 cm wide



Red-osier Dogwood winter fruiting stalk empty and c. 4 cm wide

Reddish autumn leaf 5.5 cm wide with a petiole 2.3 cm long

